FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 FEBRUARY 1985

Lebanon

The Lebanese Army deployed in the Sidon area following the IDF's withdrawal on 16 February and President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in the city the following day accompanied by Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Beirut radio reported. Al-Jumayyil congratulated the people of the south "on this first liberation step" in remarks broadcast by the radio, promising that the state will continue its "energetic efforts to liberate every inch" of the country and praising the resistance fighters for charting "the proper course." Meanwhile, the radio announced that three Lebanese "agents" of Israel were "liquidated" in Sidon and that nine others were arrested by national resistance fighters in the Al-Zahrani district. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Sidon's "jubilation" surrounding the arrival of the Lebanese Army and President al-Jumayyil was followed by a "negative" development — the arrival of "Hezbollah" gunmen from southern Beirut on 18 February. The gunmen returned to Beirut after staging an armed demonstration and raiding several shops in Sidon, the radio noted.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had announced the decision to withdraw on 16 February in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio that day, asserting that the withdrawal was being implemented 2 days before the 18 February deadline "for various considerations." Citing Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Israel's *HADASHOT* subsequently disclosed that the decision to withdraw ahead of schedule was intended to avert a spate of attacks against the IDF. Nevertheless, three IDF soldiers were killed by attacks in southern Lebanon on 18 and 19 February, including a colonel who was the Israeli adviser to army of southern Lebanon commander Antoine Lahd, according to Jerusalem radio. As for Israel's relations with the Lebanese authorities, *HADASHOT* spoke of "surprise and anger" in Jerusalem over President al-Jumayyil's "provocative" remarks in Sidon, noting that Israel will warn him against encouraging attacks on the IDF.

Meanwhile, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad congratulated al-Jumayyil on the "victory" achieved through the IDF withdrawal from Sidon, Damascus radio reported, and the Syrian leader subsequently received Lebanese Ministers Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and Salim al-Huss, according to SANA. As for the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh told Beirut's *AL-SAFIR* that Syria is waiting for "the appropriate time to withdraw 12,000 Syrian soldiers from Lebanon to Syria so that our Army can carry out other national tasks." Syria needs to safeguard its borders from Turkey to the Golan Heights, he said, and it is "out of the question" for Syria to ensure security in Beirut, though it might give security assistance to the Lebanese authorities if they ask for such help. Meanwhile, a 17 February commentary by Damascus radio stressed that the Lebanese national resistance's victories against the IDF were the result of Syria's backing. Israeli admissions that the withdrawal from southern Lebanon was caused by the pressure of fedayeen operations have a "far-reaching implication" for the West Bank and Gaza Strip and confirm that resistance is the only option that will force Israel to withdraw, the radio added. In similar vein Riyadh radio stressed that the liberation of Sidon shows that force is necessary to regain the occupied Arab territories and confirms that what has been seized by force can only be recovered by force.

In a separate Lebanese development, a car-bomb exploded in the southern suburb of Beirut on 18 February, killing 4 people and wounding 41 others, Beirut radio announced. Earlier, in the wake of U.S. journalist Jeremy Levin's escape, an Islamic Jihad spokesman warned AP that his organization will execute one of the Americans in its custody, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Attacks on Gulf shipping were pushed further south when Iranian jets struck a Kuwaiti container vessel eight miles north of the Abu Kush oilfield on 18 February, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported. In a separate development, four Iraqi boats carrying personnel were forced to flee when they tried to infiltrate Iranian positions near Jofeyr on 17 February, according to the Iranian military communique cited by IRNA.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman "strongly denied" Iranian claims that Iraq refused to receive a group of POW's released by Iran, INA announced.

Iran

Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Reyshahri revealed that two hijacking attempts by the "Monafeqin," the Iranian authorities' term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq, were "discovered" by security officials during the Ten Days of Dawn ceremonies, IRNA reported.

Sudan

U.S. Aid — Reacting to reports that the United States has stopped its economic aid to Sudan, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said it would be a "mistake" to stop aid to Sudan and that he will discuss this issue during his visit to Washington, MENA reported. Meanwhile, Libya is ready to extend aid to Sudan "equal to what used to be paid" by the United States, according to a Foreign Liaison Bureau source cited by JANA.

University Closed — The president of Khartoum University closed all the university colleges "for an indefinite period" following "quarrels" between two groups of students on 15-16 February, SUNA announced.

Egypt

Tabah Talks — Israeli and Egyptian delegations will meet in Ismailia "in a few days" to continue discussions on the Tabah issue, Jerusalem radio reported on 15 February.

PLO-Jordan — Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid confirmed Egypt's support for the Jordanian-PLO agreement but also noted that Egypt believes the Palestinians "are right" in their "reservations" about UN Resolution 242, according to MENA.

PLO

At a press conference in Libya, Abu Khalid Al-'Amlah announced the formation of a joint command comprised of members of Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha's New Revolutionary Movement in Fatah and Sabri al-Banna's Revolutionary Council, Tripoli radio reported. Amman television maintained that Syria "pushed" the Fatah dissidents to merge with Al-Banna's group to establish an "alternative leadership" for the PLO.

Morocco

King Hassan II appointed Abdellatif Filali to replace Abdelouahed Belkaziz as foreign minister, MAP announced. Earlier, the agency reported, citing *AL-ALAM* newspaper, Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani had been instructed by King Hassan II to form a new government. Lamrani also received "royal directives" concerning the "general lines" of the government's program, the report added.

DRA

A BAKHTAR statement, broadcast by Kabul radio, maintained that the PRC has become the "main center" for supplying weapons to and training Afghan counterrevolutionary bands. The statement also noted that the DRA Foreign Ministry drew attention to the "consequences" of these hostile actions in a "protest note" to the PRC.

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BAKHTAR Issues Statement on PRC 'Interference'

LD170027 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Statement by the BAKHTAR Information Agency:

Undeniable facts and evidence prove that the role of Chinese hegemonism in the internal affairs of our country is not only increasing, but it is now completely clear that Beijing has been transformed into the main center for organizing the undeclared war against our people, revolution, and our beloved country, the DRA.

Documents, weapons, and numerous evidence seized by our heroic Armed Forces when routing Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, show that China is being transformed into the main center for supply of weapons and ammunition and for training the murdering Afghan counterrevolutionary bands. In the years after the revolution, large quantities of assorted Chinese weapons — from light weapons, bombs, antitank and antipersonnel mines to heavy machineguns, mortar, recoilless rifles, large-caliber weapons, rocket-launchers and antiaircraft weapons — have been seized from the counterrevolutionary bands.

The recent discovery of a large number of ground-to-ground reactive missiles [reaktiv toghandi] being fired from long distances to destroy and set fire to the residential homes of our working people in Kabul, undeniably exposed Chinese hegemonism and proved that the louder the voice of these hegemonists becomes in claiming non-responsibility, the more they are involved in destabilizing the situation and interfering in the internal affairs of their neighbors.

China, which until recently was content to supply weapons and ammunition to Afghan counterrevolutionary bands and sent military advisers and instructors to the training camps of murdering Afghan counterrevolutionary mercenaries in the territory of Pakistan, has now, by creating military training camps in the province of Xinjiang, taken over direct responsibility side by side and together with the criminal U.S. imperialism, Pakistan, Iran, and regional reaction for crimes and interference in the internal affairs of our country and the undeclared war against our country, people, and revolution, and has transformed its territory into another center of aggression and intervention against our country.

Chinese collaboration with all those forces that want to drag the people of Afghanistan into the darkness of the Middle Ages and their direct collaboration in the vast organized anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet crusade with the leaders of international imperialism and the representatives of military-industrial monopolies, are in open contradiction with their false claims in defense of the interests of the international working class and the cause of the workers and liberation movements. Once again the filthy face of Chinese hegemonism is clearly exposed as a great ally of the crimes of U.S. imperialism and world reaction, against the rising people of the world, from Cambodia and Afghanistan to the heroic struggle of the people of Latin America.

The Beijing authorities, side by side with the authorities of Washington, have taken up a joint stance against almost all independence-seeking, progressive, and liberation movements, and the movements for peace and democracy. Today nothing remains but a dead and lifeless skeleton of the demagogical Chinese claim of opposition to imperialist and capitalist exploitation.

As it has been pointed out in the letter of the PDPA Central Committee to the CPC Central Committee, China, which itself has passed difficult tests and received effective assistance from the Soviet Union in crushing the Japanese army of Guangdong in Manchuria in 1945 and also against the rule of Kuomintang, should have in the first place supported the rule of workers in Afghanistan. It is regrettable to the people of Afghanistan that they witness instead tireless enmity, warmongering, and hostility from their northeastern neighbor. With every passing day, the scroll of the crimes of hegemonism against our beloved country becomes longer and longer.

One day we hear of deals by the leaders of the murdering bands to receive 3,000 antiaircraft and reactive missiles [reaktiv toghandi] from China, and the next we hear of pressures and a hue and cry from Chinese and Pakistani authorities that they do not accept the peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan and want to solve the problem militarily.

Our people see China, together with plundering imperialists, Pakistani militarists, and the reaction of the region, in the same light of enmity and as an ally with the darkest elements and murderous right-wing bands.

The expanding dimensions of China's interventionist policy was the reason that in addition to this letter, the DRA Foreign Ministry in a protest note drew the attention of the responsible authorities of Beijing to the consequences of these hostile actions. Unfortunately, the responsible authorities of that country, despite the existence of sufficient evidence of these disgraceful actions, shamelessly called the charges false and obliged us to expose in this press conference a dimension of China's interference and aggression against our homeland, revolution, and people so the working people of our country and the world public can judge for themselves.

The DRA, as a sovereign country and full member of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement, and as a country that with the victory of the national democratic April Revolution has once and for all chosen its path, strongly condemns the increasing participation of China in the undeclared war of imperialism against the DRA, and voices its hatred and anger.

Dost on Postponement of Talks With Pakistan

LD181935 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul, 18 Feb (BAKHTAR) — In reply to a question by a BAKHTAR correspondent concerning the postponement of another round of talks in Geneva between the DRA and Pakistan through the representative of the UN secretary general, which were due to be held in mid-February, DRA Foreign Minister Shah Muhammad Dost said:

The postponement of another round of talks in Geneva concerning the solution of the situation around Afghanistan, considering Pakistan's fluctuating position on this matter, was not unexpected. This once again proves the integrity of the views held by the DRA that Pakistan has never shown necessary interest and goodwill in serious and constructive negotiations.

February 1985 was the date proposed for the fourth round of Geneva talks by Diego Cordovez, the representative of the UN secretary general at the conclusion of the third round of talks held in August 1984, to which Pakistan raised no objections. Additionally, the UN representative and Pakistan in November 1984 in New York insisted that the fourth round of talks must be held on 14 February 1985, and the DRA, notwithstanding other important engagements, showed the necessary flexibility and agreed to the date.

When Pakistan decided, unilaterally and without valid reasons, to postpone the date of talks to May 1985, the Afghan side did not express any concern in principle. In the meantime Diego Cordovez requested that until the commencement of the meeting in Geneva the Afghan and Pakistan sides should hold unofficial meetings with him and discuss topics that would help toward the process of negotiations. Pursuing its constructive position, the Afghan side accepted this proposal too, but Pakistan did not agree to such negotiation.

The Pakistani side told the representative of the UN secretary general that Pakistan's decision on the postponement of talks to May 1985 was due to the so-called election in Pakistan. However, this claim is no more than a mere pretext because the talks were due to begin on 14 February, and to conclude on 22 February, whereas the election in Pakistan is due to begin 25 February, that is 3 days after the end of the talks. In addition the Afghan side declared that if the Pakistani representative wanted to be in his country before the election in that country, it was possible to move up the date of the talks by as much as a week.

Moreover, the Geneva talks have no connection whatever with the election in Pakistan because, whatever happens, General Ziaul Haq, as he himself has announced, will remain military ruler, and the military government will also continue to rule after the election. Therefore the Pakistan representative, as before, could have acted under his instructions.

The fact of the matter is that Pakistan has employed pretexts before; sometimes it has mentioned the pressures exerted by the United States, China, Saudi Arabia and others: and on other occasions has shown itself dependent on the so-called decisions of the Islamic conference, and so forth. It is true that the United States, China and Saudi Arabia have always exerted and are always exerting pressure on Pakistan to delay the talks and to allow them the use of Pakistani soil as a springboard in the undeclared war.

However, no one can close their eyes to the fact that, due to various reasons, including obtaining economic, military and other aids, Pakistan itself does not want to take an interest in constructive talks.

If so far the talks have been proceeding relatively successfully, this was due to the DRA's flexibility. However, if Pakistan has so far taken part in the talks, it has been mainly because it did not want to shoulder the blame for stopping the negotiations.

Nevertheless it will be very difficult for Pakistan and its mentors to succeed in deceiving international public opinion. Now the peoples of the world know very well which side desires serious and constructive talks and which side is abusing them to hide their militaristic and aggressive activities.

The DRA Government has pursued its initiatives with practical steps that constitute a realistic base toward reaching a political solution. The purpose of all our efforts is to arrive at major agreements with our neighbors, and a solution to existing differences and the normalization of relations with them.

The DRA Government has always believed, and believes now, that the shortest way to succeed in achieving this aim is through direct talks with its neighbors, and as a first step with Pakistan. Despite this the DRA Government has continued giving necessary support to the mission of the UN secretary general's representative in finding a political solution. In the meantime it should be pointed out that only through sincere participation in talks can the required results be achieved.

The Government of the DRA, in consideration of the fact that the normalization of relations with its neighbors are in accord with the interests of our peoples and would help toward easing tension in the region, consider every effort toward the undue delay of the process of talks or their cessation as an irresponsible act and counts it as contrary to the cause of peace and security of the peoples in the region.

Ershad Appoints New Minister, Election Official

BK171725 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has appointed Mr Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam, chief election commissioner, as a minister. Earlier, Justice Islam resigned from the office of the chief election commissioner. The president also appointed Mr Justice Chowdhury A.T.M. Masud, a judge of the appellate division of the Supreme Court, as the new chief election commissioner.

Mr Ershad administered oath of offices of the newly appointed minister and the chief election commission at a simple ceremony held at Banga Bhavan tonight. The function was attended by deputy chief martial law administrators, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, ministers, advisers to the president and high civil and military officials.

Mr Justice Nurul Islam has been given the portfolio of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Ershad Reviews Law, Order Situation

BK161723 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] President Ershad has directed the law enforcing agencies to be firm in dealing with the law and order situation in the country. While reviewing the overall law and order situation at a high-level meeting at the Secretariat in Dhaka this morning, the president said the police and other law enforcing agencies should be more active and effective in protecting the life of the people. He said none will be allowed to create lawlessness and violence.

Referring to the recent unhappy incidents in the Dhaka university campus and storming and damaging of a newspaper office by some miscreants in the garb of students, he said such incidents cannot be allowed to recur. President Ershad said the law of the land is equally applicable to all and must be abided by all, including newspapers. He stressed the need for more responsible journalism in the country. He reiterated that the present government is entirely neutral and nonpolitical. He said he has given a definite program for the establishment of democracy and elected government in the country. The president said any attempt to create law and order situation by taking advantage by any quarters will be severely dealt with.

Present on the occasion among others were the home minister, Major General Abdul Manan Siddiqui; the information and law minister, Mr A.R. Yusuf; the principal staff officer to the chief martial law administrator, the chief of general staff, heads of law enforcing agencies, and high officials of the concerned ministries.

Delhi: 12 Injured in Student Strike Clash

BK151613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 12 persons were injured, 2 of them seriously, when agitating students pelted stones on vehicles in Dhaka today. The students were observing a citywide strike in protest against the killing of a student leader in Dhaka by progovernment Janadal.

Dinner Honors Chinese Radio, TV Delegation

BK150258 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The information secretary hosted a dinner in Dhaka last night in honor of the visiting 6-member Chinese radio and television delegation. Speaking on the occasion, the leader of the delegation, Mr Ma Qingxiong, said the people of Bangladesh and China, making up one-fourth of the world population, can contribute immensely to the global peace. Welcoming the delegation, the information secretary said the two countries will exchange radio and television programs and the visit of the delegation will consolidate bilateral relations.

Opposition Party Chief Urges Lifting Martial Law

HK160406 Hong Kong AFP in English 0249 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 16 (AFP) — A former chief of the Bangladesh Navy, Retired Rear Admiral Mosarraf Hossain Khan, has asked the government to lift martial law before it holds elections.

Admiral Khan told a news conference here yesterday that any election under martial law would not be free and impartial.

The admiral, heading Jatiyo Janata Party, proposed a legal framework to fill the constitutional vacuum after the withdrawal of martial law and conduct the scheduled April 6 parliamentary poll.

He also suggested a roundtable conference of all political parties, and excluding the government, to find solution to present political crisis in which major opposition alliances have said they would boycott any elections held under martial law. President Ershad who swept to power in a bloodless military coup in March 1982 has refused to lift martial law before the polls.

Gandhi for 'Cordial' Ties Between Center, States

BK171621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said that the solution to the Punjab and Assam problems will be found soon. Addressing several meetings in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh today, he said the government is trying to eliminate areas of tension so that it could concentrate on the development of the country.

He stressed the need for cordial relations between the center and the states for the speedy development of the country. Mr Gandhi denied that he had ever advocated one party rule at the center and in the states.

Punjab, Assam Solutions 'Soon'

BK170907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said that the Assam and Punjab problems will be resolved soon. Speaking at a number of meetings in Bihar this morning, he said the government has already taken steps to find an early solution to these issues. Mr Gandhi said the government is trying to eliminate areas of tension so that it could concentrate on the development of the country. Mr Gandhi asked the people to make Mrs Gandhi's dream of building a strong India a reality. He said apart from cleansing politics through measures like the antidefection bill, the government will take steps to provide better life to farmers and weaker sections of the society. The 20-point program will be implemented with greater vigor, Mr Gandhi added.

Comments on Promises, Corruption

BK170412 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said that government is committed to fulfilling promises with people's cooperation. Addressing a series of meetings in Bihar yesterday, Mr Gandhi described the antidefection bill as a step toward cleansing public life. He said even harsher measures are under consideration to wipe out political corruption. Mr Gandhi said the government is making efforts to maintain friendly relations with our neighbors.

Stresses Need for Strong Government

BK160455 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi says a strong government in the state is imperative, and it is the only tool to implement the plans of the center. He told a public meeting in Kanpur that the Congress-I alone can provide an efficient and stable government. He said his party will fulfill all its promises.

In listing the achievements of his government, Mr Gandhi referred to the measure against defection and unearthing of the spy ring. Steps are afoot to curb the menace of black money. Mr Gandhi said the government is formulating the future industrial policy so that chances of sickness and the closure of industrial units are less.

Gandhi Rules Out Armed Intervention in Sri Lanka

BK151627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said that populist measures by the Andhra Pradesh government have created a financial crisis in the state. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad, Mr Gandhi pointed out that cheap rice scheme and cheap dairy program in the state were fully financed by the center. He said the state government has run a huge overdraft and is still lagging behind. He denied the allegation that the center has made any discrimination in giving funds between the government and the non-Congress government.

Replying to a question about developments in Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi has said that there is no question of any armed intervention.

Earlier, addressing a number of public meetings, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the center has already initiated a number of welfare measures for the youths and women. Separate ministries have been created for the purpose.

Reportage on Sri Lankan Fishing Boat Incidents

2 Indian Fishermen Killed

BK141605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Two Indian fishermen were killed when the Sri Lankan Navy patrol opened fire at Kodaikanal near Rameswaram last night. According to agency reports, the Sri Lankan Navy patrol opened fire with automatic weapons and gunned down the fishermen, who were fishing within Indian territorial waters. The Sri Lankan Navy personnel then looted the catch, tearing away the fishing nets. The bodies were brought in a boat by the fishermen to Rameswaram this morning.

A group of fishermen are reported to have burned down a first class bogie of a train at the Rameswaram railway station. Meanwhile, shops remained closed in Rameswaram today in protest against the frequent attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

This is the third time this week that Sri Lankan Navy personnel opened fire on Indian fishermen.

'Deep Concern' Expressed

BK151254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] India has expressed its deep concern at the killing of two Indian fishermen by a Sri Lankan Navy boat on Wednesday within the Indian territorial waters. In New Delhi today the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, called the Sri Lanka's

high commissioner, Mr Tilakaratna, and conveyed to him India's feelings on this matter. Compensation for the loss of lives was also sought. According to an official spokesman, Mr Bhandari urged the Sri Lankan authorities to exercise restraint. He also drew the attention of Mr Tilakaratna to the growing numbers of Sri Lankan Tamil fishermen who have been leaving their homes and seeking refuge in India. This large-scale influx in creating a difficult problem for India, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, the situation in Rameswaram is normal. However, the fishermen did not go for fishing today because of apprehensions of further attacks by the Sri Lanka Navy.

Offer of Joint Patrols

BK181639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr S.J. Chatwal, will be reaching New Delhi tonight to apprise the government of his conversation with the Sri Lanka foreign minister, Mr S. Hameed, in Colombo yesterday.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the gist of their conversation has been received by the Foreign Office. a detailed report is awaited.

The spokesman was replying to questions whether India is considering the reported suggestion by Mr Hameed that Indian and Sri Lankan navies should conduct joint patrols of the waters between the two countries.

The All India Radio correspondent from Madras reports that Mr Chatwal met the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, today. They discussed the present situation in Sri Lanka. The minister, Mr S. Ramachandra, who was with the chief minister at the time of the meeting, informed newsmen that the chief minister plans to visit Delhi and apprise the center of the Tamil Nadu point of view on the issue.

Tamil Nadu Chief Comments

BK160413 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, yesterday appealed to the fishermen of Rameshwaram to remain calm. In a statement, he condemned the recent attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy within Indian territorial waters. He said both the state government and the center are taking all steps to put an end to such happenings. The state government is also doing everything for the rehabilitation of the affected families.

'Exodus' of Refugees From Sri Lanka Continues

BK171615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The exodus of refugees from Sri Lanka into Rameswaram continued for the 14th successive day today. UNITED NEWS OF INDIA says 94 families consisting of 434 members arrived in Rameswaram today. The agency quoted official sources to say that the total number of refugees, who have come to Rameswaram since the 4th of this month, has reached 3,434.

In Madras, the administrative committee of the DMK has adopted a resolution alleging that the center is indifferent toward the problems of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Fires on Refugees

BK191027 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] According to agency reports a number of Tamils coming to India from Sri Lanka were injured (?when) the Sri Lankan Navy fired on their boats yesterday. The firing forced the three boats carrying about 100 passengers to change their course. They landed at Dhanushkodi near Rameswaram. The agency adds that this is the first time that Sri Lankan Navy fired on Tamils leaving the island.

With the steady exodus of refugees from Sri Lanka continuing since the 4th of this month, over 4,400 refugees have already arrived in Rameswaram; 927 refugees from (Rafalai), Jaffna and Talaimannar landed in Rameswaram yesterday.

Polish Envoy Reportedly Linked to Spy Case

HK170702 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT 17 Feb 85

[By Govindan Unny]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 17 (AFP) — A foreign office source today identified a Polish diplomat reportedly expelled for involvement in India's spy scandal as Commercial Attache Wincenty Rybak.

The other East European diplomat reportedly expelled was from the East German Embassy, but he was on leave when the spy ring was uncovered last month and did not return to his post, the source added.

The source also confirmed the direct involvement of two Soviet diplomats in New Delhi in the scandal, which allegedly involves the sale of economic and defence secrets to a foreign power.

"The Soviet Embassy has already been told by the Indian Government to withdraw the diplomats," the source said, without naming them.

The Indian press has reported that diplomats from the Embassies of France, Poland, East Germany and the Soviet Union have been expelled from the country in connection with the spy case but did not identify the Eastern Bloc diplomats. The French Government withdrew its ambassador, Serge Boidevaix, and Deputy Military Attache Alain Bolley from New Delhi although neither France nor India have officially said the men were involved in the scandal.

The Polish, East German and Soviet Embassies here declined to comment on the reports.

Mr Rybak, who is listed on the Polish diplomatic list as commercial attache first secretary, took up his post here in September 1983. He belonged to the Polish intelligence service, the source said.

When asked about Polish involvement at a press conference here Tuesday, visiting Polish Prime Minister General Wojciech Jaruzelski said he would investigate if a Polish diplomat or an employee of the trade mission was involved in the spy ring and inform the Indian Government.

He admitted that the matter had been raised by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during their talks on Monday.

Since Mr Gandhi announced in Parliament on January 18 that a spy ring had been smashed, the government has made only one statement saying that "a foreign agent had been withdrawn by a foreign power" and that investigations were continuing.

Police sources, however, have confirmed that 17 people -- 13 officials and four businessmen — have been arrested and that several of them have confessed to involvement.

It was also officially stated that the principal secretary to the Prime Minister, P.C. Alexander, had resigned after it was found that his personal assistants were among those detained.

Meanwhile India's top general, Chief of Army Staff General A.S. Vaidya, told reporters in the eastern state of Bihar that no secrets had leaked from the army, *THE STATESMAN* newspaper reported today.

Despite speculations regarding defence leaks, "the general reaffirmed that army's secrets were well guarded," the newspaper's correspondent said in a report.

Industrial Cooperation With Poland Discussed

BK150355 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] India and Poland have agreed to further strengthen industrial cooperation. This was revealed at a meeting between the industry minister, Mr Virendra Patil, and the Polish minister for industry, Mr Maciejewicz, in New Delhi today. The Polish side indicated its interest for supply of heavy duty machine tools to India.

The two sides discussed possibilities of transfer of know-how by Poland for the manufacture of combine harvesters in India. The two ministers also discussed cooperation for the manufacture of TV tubes.

Poland has also offered to assist India in the modernization of its copper project. A team of copper experts will soon visit Poland to work out modalities and the scope of cooperation for the first stage of modernization of the Khetri copper complex. This was decided at a meeting which the steel and mines minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, had with the Polish minister for mining and energy, Mr C. Piotrowski, in New Delhi. A joint committee of Indian and Polish experts has been set up to oversee and monitor early completion of the [word indistinct] power plant being set up at the Bokaro steel plant.

BBC Reports on Soviet MIG-29 Delivery

BK151308 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Feb 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] According to Indian newspaper reports, the Soviet Union plans to start deliveries of its MIG-29 advanced jet fighter to India by the middle of this year. If the reports are correct, India will be the first country outside the Soviet Union to receive the plane. From Delhi, Bob Jobbins:

[Begin recording] If the Soviet Union is planning to supply the MIG-29 by the middle of this year, this would put India ahead of even Russia's Warsaw Pact allies in acquiring the Soviet answer to the American F-16. According to one report Indian pilots are already in the Soviet Union training on the new fighter. Indian pilots are also being training in France to fly the Mirage 2000. First deliveries began this month of the 40 Mirage India ordered from France just over 2 years ago as its immediate response to the American decision to supply the F-16 to Pakistan.

If the report on the MIG-29 delivery date turns out to be true, this would be significantly earlier than military observers here had expected. It is possible that the report is merely an attempt to bolster the position of the Russians at a time when the Soviet Union as well as France and Western arms suppliers are anxiously watching the Indian Government's reaction to the spy scandal and revolution that both East and West have been receiving top secret information from several Indian ministers [as heard].

The first Indian made MIG-27's are also coming into service shortly. The first planes have been air tested and the Indians are expected to produce about 200 of these ground-attack fighters to replace the now aging MIG-21's, many of which were also built in India. [end recording]

Punjab Situation Said 'Fully Under Control'

BK190908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] The senior adviser to the Punjab governor, Mr R.V. Subramaniam, has said that law and order situation in the state has improved and the situation is fully under control. Addressing a press conference in Bhatinda today, he said some isolated incidents of violence have occurred and those responsible are being arrested.

Mr Subramaniam said the state government is giving priority to allotment of power to agriculture sector and the situation will become easy by the end of next month when the 2d unit of the Ropar thermal and the 1st unit of Anandpur Hydroelectric project will start functioning.

Opposition Leaders Placed Under House Arrest
HK181320 Hong Kong AFP in English 1257 GMT 18 Feb 85

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 18 (AFP) — Four more leaders of the main opposition coalition were put under house arrest today, leaving virtually all of Pakistan's opposition leaders in prison or under house arrest a week before the first national elections in eight years.

Those arrested today in Karachi were Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, leader of the Pakistani People's Party of executed President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, according to reliable sources [as received].

The People's Party is the leading component of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, the opposition coalition, which has urged a boycott of the elections.

According to the opposition, nearly 400 militants and leaders have been put in prison or under house arrest since the opposition called for a boycott of the national and local elections on February 25 and 28.

A year ago, the head of state, General Mohammed Ziaul Haq, promised publicly that all opposition leaders would be released before the elections. Today, officials said privately in Karachi that this would not happen.

The 11 main opposition parties in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy called yesterday for three nationwide demonstrations against the elections, the first on Wednesday and the other two on the two polling days.

Their objection is that the elections will not ensure an immediate end to martial law and will not restore the 1973 parliamentary constitution, which was suspended after the coup that brought General Zia to power in July 1977.

The arrests have surprised many people here, largely because the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy has been less than energetic in spreading the order to boycott the poll.

It apparently was relying on apathy and indifference among most of the population toward General Zia's plan for an "Islamic democracy".

Deprived of the right to hold public meetings, the electoral campaign being waged by the independent and non-political candidates has boiled down to a poster war in the cities, while in the country, local officials have held banquets for potential voters.

Because of the general lack of interest in the elections, the military authorities last week authorized the use of loudspeakers at political rallies, on condition that they are held in private.

Exceptionally, today, the government opened up the air waves and television to candidates representing religious minorities, chiefly Christians and Hindus, who had until now been unable to rally for support separately.

General Zia has also announced that he will not release details of the amendments he will make to the constitution to establish a presidential type regime and appoint a national security council, conferring an institutional role on the Armed Forces.

This uncertainty about the extent of their parliamentary powers once they are elected has led candidates to concentrate on local issues.

The opposition estimates that the turnout will not exceed 25 percent on a national level, which would justify its boycott call.

The very low turnout for the referendum on December 19 on "Islamicisation" would appear to bear out their view.

The government is relying on local worthies in the country to persuade people to turn out in force. But in the big towns and cities, the government-controlled media is already hinting that a large number of abstentions are expected.

Delhi on Opposition Moves
BK171255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition parties are circulating video and sound cassettes calling the people to boycott the general elections this month. Reports say this is being done because opposition parties are deprived of coverage in the national press. The Pakistan People's Party has distributed hundreds of copies of speeches by Miss Benazir Bhutto, daughter of executed Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto, and acting leader of the party, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

Meanwhile, the military government has arrested at least 125 leaders and political activists.

Delhi on Arrests
BK181621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] In Pakistan, several prominent opposition leaders have been placed under house arrest. Among them are the acting head of the Pakistan People's Party, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and the Muslim League leader, Khwaja Khairuddin. This is to prevent them from campaigning for the boycott of the national poll on the 25th of this month. All the main opposition leaders, except Air Marshal Asghar Khan, are now under detention, but there is reportedly heavy surveillance on his house. With the arrest of these leaders, prospects of any last minute settlement with the opposition before the national poll have greatly dimmed.

Use of Megaphones Permitted for Elections
BK151623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Candidates contesting the coming general elections have been allowed to use battery-operated hand-held megaphones. This will enable the candidates to present their viewpoints and

secure voters' support. Megaphones should not be used for any other objectives. They can be used in indoor gatherings only. Use of megaphones with cars is completely banned. Restriction on the use of loudspeakers will continue. Other rules and regulations relating to electioneering that have been explained in martial law order No 102 will be strictly followed.

British Defense Staff Chief Meets Naval Chief

BK171126 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The chief of the British defense staff, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, called on the chief of the naval staff, Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan, in Islamabad this morning. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

Visits Afghan Refugee Camp

BK181155 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The British chief of the defense staff, Field Marshal Edwin Bramall, visited an Afghan refugee tented village at Nasirbagh near Peshawar this morning. An elder of the Afghan refugees explained the circumstances which forced them to leave their country and seek shelter in Pakistan. He also visited a Saudi Red Crescent dispensary for the refugees.

Delhi Reports Pakistan-UK Deal for 3 Warships

BK170955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Pakistan has signed a $300-million deal with a British shipbuilding firm for three warships for its navy. The agreement provides for building two type-21 frigates in Britain and the third in Karachi. The warships have been redesigned to permit more armaments to be carried on board.

First Consignment of Cobra Helicopters Arrives

BK161547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The first consignment of Cobra helicopters for the Pakistan Army arrived at the aviation base in Rawalpindi today. The first batch of pilots, technical officers and experts for these helicopters have completed their training in the United States and are fully capable of piloting and maintaining these aircraft. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq will formally induct these helicopters into the aviation corps at a function next month.

Special Military Court to Try Saboteurs

GF171142 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Feb 85 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Feb 13 — The special military court trying 30 alleged saboteurs, said to belong to the Al-Zulfiqar organisation, resumed hearing of the case in Central Jail, Haripur, on Tuesday.

Mr Jamal Khattak and Safdar Khan, advocates, appeared on behalf of the accused.

A case against these 30 and 52 others was registered in East Cantt Police Station, Peshawar. Those declared absconders include two sons of a former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Murtaza Bhutto and Shahnawaz Bhutto. The 52 absconders are reported to have fled the country and were declared as proclaimed offenders by a military court earlier. Hearing at the Haripur Central Prison continues.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Calls on India To Fight 'Terrorism'

BK181055 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] President Jayewardene has offered to restrict military activities in the north and to resume negotiations on the ethnic issue if India joined him in fighting terrorism. In an interview with the English language *TRIBUNE* published in the India city of Chandigarh, President Jayewardene said that India should join him in surveillance operations to stop the flow of terrorists and ammunition into Sri Lanka.

The president made no secret of this determination to exterminate the terrorists with or without Indian assistance. He added that the whole atmosphere would change if India agreed to help Sri Lanka in fighting terrorism.

Premadasa Returns From Thailand, Singapore

BK171045 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Premadasa returned to the island last night after his successful tour of Thailand and Singapore which lasted 10 days.

Security Minister on Goals of Terrorists

BK161443 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told opposition political parties today that they should not use the call for a political settlement of the present crisis in the country as a weapon to arouse public opinion and achieve narrow political gains. He said that those who speak on the necessity for a political settlement should disclose their plans and the same proposal should be made to the northern terrorists as well. Addressing a Mahapola [religious] seminar at (Venkata) this morning, the minister made it clear that a political settlement to the present crisis is necessary, but such a political settlement should help [words indistinct] agreeable to all sections of the community. However, he said terrorists did not seem to be changing their procedure of winning the struggle by violent activities, and therefore it was (?essential) to eradicate terrorism while making attempts to work out a political solution.

The minister also reiterated the government's firmness in launching counterattacks to the terrorists who resort to violence.

The minister, speaking of the necessity to set up a mixed community to ensure the eradication of terrorism, pointed out that about 250,000 people living in the (Wanni) area were against the terrorists. Another 250,000 people will be settled in this area and they will be provided with the necessary training on use of weapons and also training in agriculture, fisheries and other fields to ensure their living.

Minister Athulathmudali expressed the hope that the government will be able to completely wiped out terrorism from these areas within a period of only 2 years, and said that the government's security arrangements would ensure the future development of the country.

In reply to a question raised by students, the minister pointed out that the so-called Eelam radio broadcast had made it clear that the aim of the terrorists was to set up a Marxist regime and their struggle [words indistinct]. The minister appealed to the people to [words indistinct] and act wisely without falling prey to the terrorist [word indistinct]. He expressed his firm determination as minister of national security to ensure the rights and freedom of the people of the country's younger generation.

The district minister for Galle, Mr Karunatilleke, addressed the seminar.

Hameed Announces Release of British Journalists

BK151411 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The three British journalists who were taken into custody for violating certain emergency regulations, were being released. This decision was taken at a meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. It was presided over by the minister, A.C.S. Hameed. The three journalists are: Nicholas Coleridge, Michael Zalanchas, and Peter Elelyn Jourvenal.

Mr Hameed said that the government views with concern the action of the three journalists, who had been permitted to enter Sri Lanka as tourists. However, he said, that in view of the representations made on their behalf and close ties that exist between Britain and Sri Lanka it was decided to release them and not to take any further action. (?others present at the meeting included) the secretary to the Defense Ministry, General Sepala Attygale, joint secretary [name indistinct] and the secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, W.T. Jayasinghe.

Hameed Meets Indian Envoy on Fishing Incident

BK171342 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The foreign minister, Shahul Hameed, met the Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, S.J.S. Chatwal, at the Foreign Ministry office this morning. They have discussed a news item that has appeared in Indian newspapers that two Indian fishermen had been shot dead by the Sri Lankan Navy in Indian waters on the 13th of this month. Mr Hameed told Mr Chatwal that the commander of the Navy had made all necessary inquiries and had assured him that the patrolcraft of Sri Lankan Navy had definitely not been involved in the incident. However, Mr Hameed did not rule out the possibility of terrorists masquerading as Sri Lankan Navy personnel having engineered the incident to create ill-will toward Sri Lanka in India.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, Mr Hameed said that he regretted that two Indian fishermen should have been killed in the (?fighting). He said that incidents of this nature could be

avoided if the navies of the two countries could communicate with each other and carry out joint patrol in the Palk Bay.

Mr Chatwal had informed the foreign minister that the people in Rameswaram were greatly agitated over the deaths of these two fishermen and the tension there was high. Mr Chatwal did inform the Indian Government in New Delhi of Mr Hameed's suggestion of joint patrol by the navies of the two countries.

Government, Opposition Criticize TULF Leader

HK190518 Hong Kong AFP in English 0455 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Colombo, Feb 19 (AFP) — The government and opposition have lashed out at the leader of the main Tamil political party who urged last week that India should intervene militarily in Sri Lanka.

A senior cabinet minister described the plea made by Appapillai Amirthalingam of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) as treachery "unheard of in the country's long history".

Parliamentary opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike also called it a "treacherous act" and appealed to the government to arrest the TULF leader the "moment he steps on Sri Lankan soil".

Mr Amirthalingam called on Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to intervene in a "Bangladesh-type" operation, which he said would save the Sri Lankan Tamils from "genocide" while speaking in the capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu where he is temporarily residing.

However, Mr Gandhi turned down the plea, stating that India had no intention of intervening militarily in Sri Lanka.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, speaking at an anniversary rally, said that Mr Gandhi's rejection of the TULF call was a victory for the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr Athulathmudali, who was in New Delhi earlier this month for talks with Mr Gandhi on bilateral issues, particularly in relation to the ethnic question which has soured relations, has said that ties with India are on the mend.

Cultural Affairs Minister Edwin Hurulle also told a public rally that all "Sri Lankans should thank Mr Gandhi profusely" for rejecting the TULF leader's call.

He said that Mr Amirthalingam was trying "to ignore words after trying to show the world that every terrorist killed by the armed forces was an innocent Tamil."

But the TULF never mentioned a word about the daily killings of innocent people by the "terrorists", the minister said.

Mr Bandaranaike said in a statement that he was urging Mr Amirthalingam's arrest in his capacity as the opposition leader.

He called on the government to take "stern action" against the TULF leader under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution which prohibits a Sri Lankan from advocating secession of the country either here or abroad.

Mr Bandaranaike is quoted by the *SUN* newspaper as saying that the government should urge India to send back Mr Amirthalingam to Sri Lanka to face "charges for his treacherous remarks".

Tamil Leader Says Civilians Killed in Northeast

BK180344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front general secretary, Mr Amirthalingam, has described as incorrect the statement of the Sri Lankan national security minister about the killing of 52 [figure as heard] Tamil militants in northeastern Sri Lanka. Mr Amirthalingam said in a statement that the people killed in the incident were not Tamil militants but civilians from three villages in Mullaitivu District. They were driven out by the armed forces in December and had returned from refugee camps to their villages with their families.

Meanwhile, according to a *NEW YORK TIMES* report, the Tamilians in Sri Lanka are confronting heavily armed and increasingly indisciplined troops.

Khomeyni Meets Gendarmerie Supervisor, Commander

LD171136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Ashtiyani, supervisor of the gendarmerie's political-ideological section and the imam's representative in the gendarmerie, together with members of the section and Colonel Sohrabi, the new commander of the gendarmerie, and gendarmerie officers, was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and commander in chief.

The meeting began with a briefing given by Ashtiyani and Col Sohrabi on their particular departments, and a report on the self-sacrifices of the gendarmerie personnel in safeguarding the country's borders, including their active participation on the battlefronts. Then the Imam of the ummah, having recalled the attitudes toward the people by the governments, chiefs, and princes under the former regime, said:

I have experienced these problems for over 70 years. If it were not for God's blessing, I have no idea what sort of fate this country would have had. Thanks be to God, he showed his kindness and enabled the nation and all the people to change. This change, however, is not only confined to the gendarmerie.

Then the hope of the oppressed people said, referring to the fact that under the former regime it was not only the people who were enslaved but also the gendarmerie and the Army: It is quite obvious that when it was decided to have advisors and experts from the United States in this country, these experts and advisors were working to safeguard their own interests. Consequently, they prevented our young people from advancement. However, you are now in charge of this country with no one to bully you. The reason you see the enemies of Islam creating so much commotion is because they suffer when they see Islam and your independence and freedom. Do not weaken and keep moving forward.

In another part of his speech, noting the country's independence, the imam of the ummah said: The central condition here is for us to safeguard God's blessing and the special prayer of the guardian of the era, god bless him; because to safeguard it is to serve God's creatures. The Army, the gendarmerie and the guards as well as all members of the government must serve the people as the clergy are serving the people. The latter remained patient under the former regime against all sorts of difficulties and eventually offered Islam to the people. Today, we are guarding Islam in trust. If any harm comes to it, not only will our future be destroyed, but our present life too will disappear. You must appreciate the clergy; they too appreciate you. I hope you will all remain together and serve the people.

Khomeyni Meets With Supreme Court President

LD181141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, this morning met Imam Khomeyni, the revolution leader and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ardabili Reports on Meeting

LD191054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] During today's Supreme Judicial Council meeting, the president of the Supreme Court reported on his meeting with the imam of the ummah, the difficulties of the judiciary that were raised, and the guidelines issued by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic.

At this meeting the acting head of the Khorasan Justice Department was appointed the head of the province's Justice Department.

Ardabili Speaks to Guardsmen on Anniversary

LD161955 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA — Chief justice of the Supreme Court, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, Saturday stressed that the guardsmen of the Islamic Revolution's committees should thwart the conspiracies of the counterrevolution aimed at spreading corruption, narcotics and decadent trends in the Iranian society.

Speaking to committee guardsmen on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the formation of Islamic Revolution's committees, the chief justice reminded that the world oppressors have failed against the Islamic Revolution because they could not understand what was the key for the success of the Iranian nation and simply evaluated the Iranian Islamic Revolution with those of other revolutions.

Anaytollah Musavi-Ardabili said that the committee guardsmen were the protectors of the Islamic Revolution and should continue their duties as before with even more awareness.

At the beginning of the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek, the deputy minister of the interior in charge of the revolution's committees reported on the activities of the committees. He said that during the past 33 months the guardsmen have discovered 221 hide-outs of the counterrevolutionaries and arrested more than 15,000 persons, among whom were top members of outlawed groups. Also 58 cases of conspiracies by the counterrevolutionaries were thwarted by the guardsmen, he added.

On narcotics trafficking, he said during the past 57 months, the guardsmen hauled 131 tons of narcotics from international and local narcotics smuggling gangs and arrested 83,000 smugglers.

In another development, Majlis deputies from Tehran, and Shabestar, M. Asghari and M. Akhondi met and conferred with Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili separately Saturday. During their meetings, they brought forth the problems of their constituencies to which the chief justice gave necessary guidelines.

Khamene'i Addresses SAIRI on Start of 5th Term

LD151837 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 15 IRNA — The only way to save Iraq from the rule of the Ba'th Party is to widen the popular base of the

opposition and an all-out campaign against "the heart of the enemy," said President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Speaking Thursday [14 February] on the start of the 5th term of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), the president said SAIRI should attract and form a joint front with individuals who are sincere in their intention to cooperate with it.

SAIRI "should respond to the cries of the innocent Iraqi nation for salvation," he added.

The head and spokesman of SAIRI and other members of its Central Council were present in the meeting with Khamene'i during which the president was briefed on the activities of SAIRI in its fourth term.

Khamene'i Addresses IRP Anniversary Rally

LD172115 Tehran IRNA In English 1855 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 17, IRNA — The Islamic Republic Party (IRP) started its 7th year in existence Sunday with a message from Secretary General 'Ali Khamene'i calling on its members to give precedence to long term goals and principles rather than personal tendencies.

Khamene'i's message was read by Dr Abdollah Jasebi to a gathering of IRP members, including government officials and Majlis deputies, at the Towhid Society building in Tehran.

"The dissolution of solidarity, disintegration of ethical foundations, disillusionment of the people, lack of mutual trust, being busy with lowly wishes, increasing selfishness and comfort-seeking among the officials and the people, are what the enemies have set their hopes on," Khamene'i said in his message.

"In fact these are the most dangerous diseases that could inflict heavy blows on the revolution if they spread."

The IRP secretary general stressed that the guidances of Imam Khomeyni will always be followed by the IRP and that IRP members had a responsibility to strengthen the ideological and political bonds among the people rather than using their membership as a means to fill government positions.

Khamene'i also said IRP members in party branches have a duty to support the government and revolutionary institutions, as called upon by the imam, and to refrain from interfering in local disputes.

Musavi Defends Economic Policies, Record

LD182032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] In a radio and television message today Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi elaborated on the economic trend of the country and the participation of the private sector in economic activities. The prime minister first referred to oppressive propaganda aimed at pretending that Iran's economic situation is critical, saying that world arrogance is trying to ignore the government's economic successes in controlling inflation and increasing the rate of growth and claiming that the economic policies of the Islamic Republic are unsuccessful. This is at a time when, in spite of the economic embargo, the expenses incurred by the imposed war and the natural disorder resulting from the revolution, we have not borrowed even $1 from outside sources. We reduced the 30 percent inflation rate in 1980 to 11.9 percent by last November.

He added: If we compare ourselves with other countries that do not have any of our problems, this inflation rate is quite acceptable. A country like Turkey has an inflation rate of 56 percent, Brazil has 200 percent and Israel has 300 percent in spite of all the special aid it receives from the United States. The prime minister added: Controlling the rate of inflation in our country results from the government's policies in supervising, controlling prices, and in distributing goods and funding for allocations and investments.

Regarding the participation of the private sector in economic activities, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi presented figures and indicators and said: The government aims at strengthening the private sector and allowing people to play a bigger role in economic activities. For example, investments in companies registered in 1983 amounted to 60 billion rials, of which only 7 billion rials is accounted for by the public sector. That is to say that investments made in the private sector in 1983 were nine times that in the public sector. The overall number of companies registered in the same year shows about 44 percent increase compared to 1983.

The prime minister then said: In 1983 industrial loan applicationsto the Bank of Industries and Mines by the private sector showed a 30 percent increase compared with the 1982. These figures are clear indications of the increasing participation of the people in economic activities.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi then stressed the government's objective in strengthening the private sector which has risen from the deprived masses. This participation is within the framework of the country's flourishing economy and efforts to guard the interests of the deprived.

Musavi Chairs Supreme Economics Council Session

LD182128 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — Bank Sana't va Ma'dan (Industries and Mines) is to prepare a list of government investments in the mining and industries sectors which can be sold to the private sector.

The directive was issued in today's meeting of the Supreme Economics Council chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

The council heard an in-depth report on the mining industry and its potential and the Mines and Metals Ministry was requested to present a plan to strengthen the mining sector to reduce dependence on income from oil exports. The report should cover investment issues, technology, manpower and obstacles in the growth of the mining industry and Bank Sana't va Ma'dan would

support the ministry in this scheme with the direct supervision of the council.

The council also discussed the present investment activities of the bank in partnership with the private sector for production plans, covering 35 industrial plans which are under way with an overall investment of rials 170 billion (dlrs 1.8 bn).

The plans could save the country dlrs 560 million in foreign exchange each year when they start production.

Maltese Foreign Affairs Minister Arrives on Visit

Velayati Welcomes Trigona

LD151431 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Malta's minister of foreign affairs and culture, Alex Trigona, arrived in Tehran today. He was welcomed by Velayati and several officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In an interview with our correspondent, the foreign minister of Malta said on his arrival:

[Begin Trigona recording in English fading to Persian translation] This is my third trip to Iran. Since both Iran and Malta belong to the Nonaligned Movement, we always are in touch with each other. This trip has been arranged at the invitation of Mr Velayati.

This is an ideal opportunity to offer our congratulations on the anniversary of the revolution, while celebrations are held by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the 6th anniversary of the victory of the revolution, and also to hold talks on the expansion of mutual economic and trade relations between the two countries. [end recording]

He added: In 1978, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the prime minister of Malta announced his objection to cooperation with the shah's regime, and he supported the Iranian revolutionaries despite fierce criticism from some of the European countries who continued their cooperation with that regime.

Our correspondent also interviewed Mr Velayati, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you mentioned, Maltese Foreign Affairs Minister Trigona is visiting Iran.

In connection with regional matters, and with regard to the sensitive position held by our country regarding the Mediterranean [words indistinct]. From now on, with regard to the sensitivity felt on our part and by our authorities, the Republic of Malta will have a prime position [words indistinct] as it always has.

The two countries have mutual friends such as Syria and Libya that always consult each other in times of emergency for attaining joint stands. Furthermore, relations between us and Malta in the field of economics and trade have improved during the past 3 years.

Particularly because of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy on the expansion of relations with those countries of (?similar stands), it is natural that we wish to expand our relations with Malta, one of the few European countries belonging to the Nonaligned Movement. [end recording]

Meets With Musavi, Velayati

LD170837 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA — The visiting Maltese Foreign Minister Alex Sceberra Trigona met and conferred with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday morning.

During the meeting which was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Trigona submitted a message to Musavi from his Maltese counterpart, Dom Mintoff.

Expansion of mutual relations between the two countries was also emphasised.

Prime Minister Musavi thanked the sincere message of the Maltese premier, and outlined the principles of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy to the Maltese guest.

Musavi also emphasised on the necessity of talks between the Maltese foreign minister and Iranian officials on mutual cooperation for ship building and oil sale.

Trigona arrived here Friday for a three day official visit.

Velayati, Trigona Confer

LD162130 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Maltese counterpart Alex Sceberra Trigona reviewed prospects of future economic and political cooperation between Iran and Malta in their meeting here today.

Also discussed in the meeting were issues of the Nonaligned Movement, the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] foreign minister's upcoming meet in Angola, coordination in international assemblies, and the south-south economic cooperations and its future meeting in North Korea.

Asserting Iran's position in the Iraq-Iran war, the Iranian foreign minister reminded that the Iraqi Government had repeatedly violated international conventions and sanctions against war operations on residential quarters. He also reaffirmed that the Islamic Republic would never consider a ceasefire with Baghdad until Iran's terms for ending the war which also includes the ousting of Saddam Husayn from power are fulfilled.

The Iranian foreign minister also lauded the brave fighting of Lebanese Muslims with the Zionist troops in southern Lebanon and said the struggle of Lebanese people had disproved the myth

of invincibility of the Zionists. He also assured his Maltese counterpart of Iran's support for the decisions of the nonaligned nations of the mediterranean countries for checking adventurous operations of the superpowers in the region.

The Maltese minister is here for a three-day visit.

Oil Agreement Signed

LD181055 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 18, IRNA — Iran will export 300,000 tons of heavy crude oil to Malta during the current year, according to an agreement signed here between the Visiting Maltese Foreign Minister Alex Sceberra Trigona and Iran's deputy oil minister Abbas Honardust, Sunday.

An announcement issued here by the Public Relations Office of the Oil Ministry today, said that present at the signing of this agreement were Malta's National Oil Company officials.

Maltese Foreign Minister Departs

LD180955 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — The Maltese foreign minister, Alex Sceberra Trigona, and his delegation concluded a four-day visit to Iran Monday morning and were seen off at Tehran's International Mehrabad Airport by Iran's minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking on the outcome of the third visit of his Maltese counterpart to Iran, Velayati said that due to the impartial stance of Malta in the international political arena, Iran attached special priority to its relations with that country.

He added that Malta had an active presence in the sessions of the Nonaligned Movement and its relevant organizations and had direct political stances in international gatherings.

Malta has potentials in ship-building industry and manufactures ships with 125,000 tons capacity which could help Iran in improving its ship-building industry, Velayati noted.

He stressed that his Maltese counterpart reached some agreements in his talks with Iranian officials, leading to the conclusion of a letter of understanding and arrangement of a joint communique which would be released in both capitals simultaneously.

Velayati described Trigona's visit to Tehran "fruitful and constructive in the interest of the two countries."

Elsewhere in his speech, Velayati referred to the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from Lebanon and said that the event was "predictable", adding that the Zionist regime would be forced to withdraw from other areas as well.

He stressed that if the Zionists had faced a similar strong resistance in occupied Palestine, the catastrophe there would not have taken its present broad dimensions.

Velayati said that the Zionist withdrawal from Lebanon would give a good lesson to those who were after making a compromise with the Zionist regime and who believed that they could convince the aggressor through negotiations.

Expressing optimism about the future of Lebanon and Muslims in the region in their confrontation with the Zionist regime, Velayati noted that the right which had been taken away by force should be regained through force since the Zionist regime did not understand any language other than force.

During his stay in Iran, the Maltese foreign minister met and conferred with a number of high-ranking officials and discussed bilateral political and economic issues.

Joint Communique Issued

LD181237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Feb 85

["Text" of the Joint Communique issued simultaneously on 18 February in Tehran and Valletta on the visit to Iran by Alex Sceberra Trigona, Maltese minister of foreign affairs]

[Text] At the invitation of Mr Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Alex Sceberra Trigona, heading an official delegation, visited the Islamic Republic of Iran 15-18 February.

In the course of his visit, Dr Sceberra Trigona met and held talks with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Foreign Minister Dr Velayati, Commerce Minister Ja'fari, Minister of Heavy Industries Nabavi, managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic Hashemi, and Deputy Oil Minister Honardust. During their friendly talks, the two sides emphasized their desire to expand bilateral cooperation in political and economic fields. The Maltese side praised and expressed support for the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of neither East nor West. In response, the Iranian side expressed support for the nonaligned position of the Republic of Malta, which is based on the principles of nonalignment.

The two sides held discussions and exchanged views on the importance of the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement as well as the movement's next session. They undertook to play an active role in the Nonaligned Movement, which seeks to resolve current issues as well as strengthen cooperation among the member countries.

Both sides welcomed and expressed their full support for the proposal by the president of the DPRK regarding the convening of a summit conference concerning south-south cooperation among the members of the Nonaligned Movement. The two sides called on the Nonaligned Movement to adopt fundamental measures to settle international problems stemming from the expansionist policies of the two superpowers.

The Maltese side briefed the Iranian side on Mediterranean security as well as the outcome of the September 1984 Valletta session of the nonaligned states of the Mediterranean. The Iranian side welcomed that outcome.

The two countries' foreign ministers then expressed their anxiety over the presence of the superpowers in the region and reiterated their objection to the use of force in the region by them. The two sides called on the aforementioned countries, as well as the countries in southern Europe, to prevent the superpowers from using their territories aginst the nonaligned countries.

The two sides, citing the problem of the Middle East, condemned the Palestine-occupying regime for its ruthless crimes against the Palestinian nation and other countries of the region, while emphasizing that all territories belonging to Muslims that have been occupied by that regime be liberated.

The two sides supported the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to create an independent country in their homeland, while stressing the need for an immediate end to U.S. support of that regime.

The two sides expressed their full satisfaction with the resistance and expressed support for recent victories by the Lebanese people and fighters against the Zionist regime. The two sides also expressed their profound anxiety over U.S. interference in the Persian Gulf, which increases daily.

The two sides once again condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, demanding an immediate withdrawal of the Soviet forces from that country so the Afghan people can decide their own future and fate.

They also condemned U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Nicaragua and other Latin American countries, while expressing their profound anxiety over the escalation of the arms race and the militarization of the Third World by the superpowers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayers Sermon

LD151607 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council today scoffed at recent Iraqi offensives and international attempts to save the Iraqi regime, saying they could not trick Iran into launching a premature offensive.

Addressing a massive crowd of worshippers at the Friday prayers in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani vowed that when the time is right, nothing could stop the Islamic forces in their future offensive.

"The Iraqis resorted to desperate moves during the Ten Days of Dawn (Feb. 1-11)... and for some time there have been satanic activities in some international gatherings to save Saddam and Israel," Rafsanjani said.

He said "These will not make an impact on us and we will not get panicky and carry out a raw and untimely operation" against the Iraqi forces.

However, Rafsanjani vowed that when political and economic as well as international conditions are ripe, "there is nothing under this sky that could stop us" from "our objective, that is to get rid of Saddam who is responsible for this war, and free the Iraqi people."

He said a prime concern was to launch an offensive with the least human losses on the Iranian as well as the Iraqi side.

The Iraqi forces have launched at least three offensives in the southern, central and northern battle fronts in the past two weeks, though none have resulted in the capture of new positions or inflicted considerable losses on the Iranian forces.

Army Joint Staff reported in its daily communique yesterday that some 300 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in a futile attack against the Islamic forces in one front and more casualties were inflicted in another front, both in the Maymak region of Ilam Province on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rafsanjani, who is also the speaker of the Majlis, described Imam Khomeyni's message on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution as very important for political observers because it showed the imam was aware of all affairs of the country.

He said "not one word" is hidden from Imam Khomeyni about the country's affairs.

Despite his grand age, Imam Khomeyni is one of the hardest working leaders known in history, he added.

Rafsanjani also said the massive participation of the people in Monday's celebrations of the revolution's anniversary was "beyond our expectations."

He said the enemies of the revolution, supported by the CIA, the Mosad and France, tried hard to make the celebrations a failure but "on the 22nd of Bahman (Feb. 11), the people's participation thwarted all their analyses of the past few months."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Revolution Committees

GF151250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Revolution committees, a number of members of these committees yesterday afternoon called on Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the Imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council. In this meeting, first a report was presented on the activities of the committees. Then, Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered a speech in which he said: For us, the committees are a symbol of the structure of the revolution, that is the first body to be created in the revolution. This symbol is always remembered by us and is a sign of hope.

When there was nobody in this country who could shoulder the responsibility and security of the country and the safety of the people and the revolution, the people themselves with a collective instinct and conscience realized the situation and without receiving any instructions from anybody, collected arms from wherever they could and took refuge anyplace they could and safeguarded the revolution without asking for any recompense.

The point at issue is whether these committees were essential only during the unrest which followed the revolution or whether this structure is still needed by us and whether this body can continue to be effective and useful for this country. In the present situation in the Islamic Republic, we can see that our Islamic Revolution is not an ordinary revolution limited to within our borders. We have often declared that we are the trailblazer of an Islamic movement and we have brought about this revolution for this purpose only. I think that this movement will continue as long as there are Muslims in the world who are oppressed or a Muslim country is under a foreign yoke.

For the sake of material gains, hypocrites, Marxists, liberals, nationalists, and smugglers have all cooperated with each other in fleeing the country and setting up a network of corruption. All of them have their roots in the United States, France, and in the Western countries. They do not hesitate to do anything, even spy for Iraq. When those hypocrites who officially spy for Iraq go to Iraqi camps and propagate against their own country in the interest of the Ba'thist Party, and when an Iranian prisoner of war goes on television and tells the people that he has become a prisoner of war at the hands of the Iraqis and if they have any military secrets they will give them to the Iraqis — such behavior does not serve the people.

Where can you find an instance in the last few years in which a terrorist group which openly admits that it has planted bombs and has performed acts of terrorism is formally placed under police protection in France and housed in a country which claims to be against terrorism? [sentence as heard] They have trampled upon all these principles in order to (?express) feelings they have against our forces. They are all branches of the same tree of hell which has its roots in the American White House. As long as you oppose blasphemy, oppressors, and the United States, these groups will continue to exist and as long as we are Muslims we are against blasphemy and oppressors. Therefore, we should always be vigilant and the Islamic Revolution committees should remain prepared with the same goals they had at their inception. They should fight corruption and crusade in the name of God and take their reward from Him.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Majlis Session

LD171900 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 17, IRNA — The Majlis, chaired by speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, approved a bill today making possible the publishing of classified Foreign Ministry documents.

The bill allows the Foreign Ministry to publish classified and historical documents but with the condition that they do not damage national security.

It stipulates that the guidelines for the publication must be drawn by the Foreign Ministry within six months and be approved by the Cabinet.

The bill will now be handed over to the Council of Guardians for further consideration. In pre-agenda speeches, Majlis Deputy from Bojnurd, Mohammad Kallateh-Abadi denounced those agents of the East and West who are conspiring against the Islamic Revolution. He said the massive nation-wide marches on the 6th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, disproved hostile powers claims that the peoples support for the Islamic Republic was diminishing.

Also in this session, Majlis deputy from Izeh, Gholi Sheikhi, denounced regional reactionary heads of states for their un-Islamic policies and expressed hope [words indistinct] in the future be raised [words indistinct].

The next Majlis session is scheduled for Tuesday during which the national budget for 1364 (March 1985 — March 1986) is to be discussed.

Majlis Issues Statement on Israeli Withdrawal

LD182012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 feb 85

[Text] Following the flight of some of the forces of the Zionist regime from south Lebanon, the Majlis Foreign Policy Committee has issued a statement, saying that the commencement of the stage-by- stage withdrawal of the Zionist regime from south Lebanon, which began with the evacuation of Sidon, is the harbinger of the victory of the Muslim jihad warriors and deprived Muslim people of Lebanon; it is also a great offering to the world of Islam and the oppressed people.

The withdrawal of the Zionist forces, following the flight of the interfering arrogant forces, is a new chapter in the history of anti-Zionist and anti-arrogance struggles by Muslims; it is also indicative of the burgeoning of the Islamic Revolution movement.

Simultaneous with this great victory, the Majlis Foreign Policy Committee, in expressing its congratulations and greetings to the beloved Lebanese people as well as the blessed presence of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, points out the following:

1. The new agreement between the Jordanian regime and the PLO on extending recognition to the Zionist regime as well as entering into a lasting peace with it with regard to the territories occupied in 1967, including the establishment of a Palestinian government within the context of a confederal government with the Jordanian Monarchy are a rash step along the Camp David path; it is, moreover, aimed at moderating the consequences and repercussions of successive defeats suffered by the United States and the Zionist regime in Lebanon;

2. The withdrawal of the Zionist forces and the repeated admissions by the ruling quarters of that regime of their aggressive objectives confirm the stable stands of the Muslim Lebanese revolutionaries with regard to their turning down any negotiations and compromise as well as their reliance on their armed stances; any doubt about the resumption of such struggles would be tantamount to a proper answer to the treacherous measures taken by the Lebanese Phalangist regime in connection with holding talks with the Zionist enemy [as heard];

3. The great offering of the Muslim Lebanese jihad warriors is a great lesson for the two oppressed nations of Palestine and other inhabitants of the occupied territories. Any consideration of the factors and effective elements contributing to the outcome as well as a responsible assessment of the reasons behind the lack of full burgeoning of their struggles during the domination of the Zionist regime will undoubtedly pave the way to future victory.

Foreign Ministry Statement on PLO-Jordan Pact

GF190536 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] According to IRNA, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a communique, deemed the joint Jordan-PLO plan an effort for the perpetuation of the Camp David Accords and a vehicle for dragging the countries of the area into negotiations along with the recognition of the occupied Jerusalem regime.

The text of the communique of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran is as follows:

In His exalted name. The recent compromising trend of affairs in the area and the efforts being made for the diversion and destruction of the aspirations of Palestine are a repetition of the late Al-Sadat's action in signing the accord with the Zionist regime which is aimed at achieving the objectives of Camp David and the spread of the feeling of surrender and compromise to the countries of the region so that in this way, the countries in the region may be separated from the fold of Islam and the Arab world in order to bring them under the direct control of international Zionism.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while warning of the danger of the recent acts of the ruling regime of Jordan and other countries — the reactionary Arab regime — states that the slogan of (?peace) instead of the land which is being proclaimed by these reactionary leaders as a realistic solution is nothing more than a lie — an overt act of deceit for forcing each of the countries in the region to negotiate and to recognize the Zionist regime.

The history of the aggression and genocide of the occupied Jerusalem regime is ample evidence of the fact that this regime is not willing to accept anything less than complete domination of Islamic lands from the Nile to the Euphrates and the cradle of Islamic history and manifestation in the area. No solution except force can make it return even one part of the land of the occupied territories to its righful owners who are the Muslim tyrannized nation of Palestine.

The Foreign Ministry strongly believes that the struggle of the Palestinian Muslims against such plans for domination and the affiliated regimes such as the ruling regime in Jordan which endeavors to represent the Palestinian nation in compromise discussions with the Zionist regime will not permit them to make any such progress. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while supporting such struggles, once again stresses the need for unity and cooperation among the Islamic governments and the (?countries) of the area in order to combat the reactionary front's campaigns.

Montazeri Meets With Lebanese Clergyman

GF190722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Allameh Seyyed Mohammad Husayn Fadlallah, a Lebanese clergyman, met His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri 2 days ago.

Alluding in these talks to the cultural exploitation which is a residue of the colonial policy of France in Lebanon and the need to support the Islamic movement in this country against the Zionist usurpers, Fadlallah stressed that Lebanon is an Islamic country and comprised of a majority of Muslims. Hence the Islamic movement must be reinforced in this country. The objective of the struggle of the Lebanese Muslims will be toward an Islamic system based on and relying on the Koran and the injunctions of Islam so that by using the Islamic system, the rights of the minorities may be safeguarded and implemented.

Sidon Youths Demonstrate for Islamic Republic

LD182308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the Muslim youths of Sidon, Lebanon, in the course of a series of extensive demonstrations today, while chanting "God is great" throughout the town and carrying portraits of Imam Khomeyni and other Islamic resistance leaders of Lebanon, demanded the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon.

According to the same report, Western news agencies, which are openly attempting to minimize the victories of south Lebanon Muslims, have mentioned the number of demonstrators in thousands, referring to them as supporters of the Islamic Revolution. The report adds that 3,000 veiled ladies were among the 15,000 demonstrators who, guarded by armed men, were celebrating their victory over the Zionist forces. The same reports say that five stores selling alcoholic beverages, operating in that Muslim-inhabited town, were attacked by the demonstrators, who demanded to live in an Islamic town.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communiques

No 2,005

LD151723 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 15, IRNA — The Islamic forces killed or wounded 12 Iraqi soldiers across the Arvand River in the southern sector of the battle fronts Thursday and destroyed eight of their bunkers and two observation posts.

Abadan was subjected to Iraqi fire during which two homes were damaged.

Joint Staff Communique No. 2005 also said in the southern sector, the two forces traded fire more intensely in the Eynkhosh and Zayd fronts. An enemy patrol unit was spotted early in the morning Thursday trying to infiltrate Iranian positions with the support of mortar and artillery fire in the Yebis front, also in the

south. But it said the activities of the unit were halted with the fire of the Islamic forces.

In the central sector, the intensity of fire was heavier in the Maymak and Qasr-e Shirin fronts, as sporadic fire was exchanged in other fronts.

Occasional trading of fire also took place in the northern sector, it added.

No 2,006

LD161705 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 16, IRNA — A military communique published by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here today said that in sporadic artillery duels throughout the battlefronts on Friday [15 February] the Iranian forces inflicted material and human casualties upon the Iraqi troops.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2006 said that on Friday the Iranian forces had maintained their control of Chuman-Mostafa [IRNA spelling] and Darband and Varaz Heights (in the western fronts), and that they had shelled Iraqi positions overlooking the Iranian border town of Sardasht in West Azarbayjan Province, inflicting human and material casualties upon the Iraqi forces.

Sporadic artillery fire was also traded between the warring troops near the Iranian city of Qasr-e Shirin and Maymak.

Iraqi patrol groups were identified near Qasr-e Shirin and Khosravi and were assaulted and forced to flee from the area by Iran's Muslim combatants, while sustaining heavy human casualties.

Elsewhere in the southern fronts Iranian troops pounded enemy positions near Nahr-Anbar and across Jofeyr and also shelled and repelled several enemy patrol boats and sunk another patrol boat with all its crew.

Artillery fire raged heavier near Nahr-Anbar, Kushk, and Talaiyeh, the communique said.

Also in an exchange of artillery fire between gendarmerie troops and Iraqi forces across the Arvand River, the Iranian troops killed five Iraqi soldiers and wrecked one enemy loader truck, and also levelled seven of their artillery emplacements.

No 2,007

LD171747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] In its Communique No 2,007, the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated: Yesterday, in the northwest operational sector, superiority of fire was maintained by the forces of Islam.

On all the battlefronts of this sector, our combative units opened heavy fire and thwarted the engineering operations of the enemy aimed at digging and strengthening trenches and canals.

In the western operational sector, our forces fired on the light and heavy vehicles of the enemy and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces. The intensity of fire in the Sumar region was greater than in other western battlefronts. In this region a number of enemy patrols intended to infiltrate the positions of the forces of Islam but were dispersed as a result of the fire of our combatants. In an exchange of fire on the shores of the Arvand Rud, our combative units opened fire on enemy concentration points to the west of the river destroying a total of 11 different types of trenches, and three observation posts of the aggressors, and killing or wounding 16 Iraqi troops.

No 2,008

LD181734 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb, 18, IRNA — Four Iraqi boats carrying personnel attempted to infiltrate Islamic combatants' positions in the region overlooking Jofeyr in the southern fronts, at 03:30 hours Sunday (24:00 hours GMT) but were forced to flee by the fire of the Iranian combatants, sustaining at least 20 dead.

Announcing this the Joint Staff Command Communique No. 2008 issued today further said that the exchange of fire in the southern fronts was more intense in Shahr-Anbar, Majnun Islands and Kushk during the past 24 hours.

In Abadan operational region, the gendarmerie forces extinguished Iraqi fire, setting ablaze part of their positions and killing some enemy troops.

In northwestern operational regions of Sardasht, the Islamic combatants zeroed in on the enemy positions with artillery and heavy gun fire halting their patrol activities and silencing their fire during the said period. A group of Iraqi patrol groups were targeted by Islamic combatants around Dopazah Heights at 24 hours local time on Saturday (20:30 hours GMT Friday) and were forced to retreat sustaining casualties.

Exchange of sporadic fire continued in the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam being more intense in Maymak. Iraqi engineering activities, logistical movements and patrol activities were checked by the Islamic combatants in these fronts. Reconnaissance activities of Iraqi helicopters were also checked in these fronts.

Iraqi patrol and engineering groups were subjected to heavy shelling in the region opposite Sumar, Qasr-e Shirin and Halaleh as a result of which the enemy troops suffered casualties and losses and were forced to flee, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Ground Forces Chief Refutes Iraqi Victory Claims

LD161602 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Pr., Feb. 16, IRNA — Col. 'Ali Sayyad Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces, said today that Iranian combatants will give Saddam's regime such a punishment that no one would ever think of conspiring against the Islamic Revolution.

Col. Shirazi refuted as baseless Iraqi claims that it had gained new territory in any of its recent assaults in three operational regions.

"There has been a lot of propaganda, but we ask where have you (Iraqi regime) achieved any victories?", the Col. asked.

Col. Shirazi took part Saturday [16 February] in a morning ceremony at the 64th Army of Orumiyeh. He said a principal of the Islamic Revolution is to awaken the world Muslims and the oppressed, who have chosen Iran as their model for their struggle against the arrogant powers.

Two Hijacking Attempts Foiled During 10-Day Dawn

LD171752 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA — Two hijacking attempts by the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] were discovered by security officials during the Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies (Feb. 1-11), Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri revealed today.

Reyshahri also said that "many" Monafeqin terrorist cells were identified and its members arrested during this period, as well as one in Tabriz, in north west Iran, today.

Speaking at a press conference, Reyshahri said the attempted hijackings by the Monafeqin were aimed at attracting attention during this historic period on the 6th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

He added that the hijackers were planning to take the aircraft to Iraq.

The information minister said "many Monafeqin cells were discovered and their members arrested" during the Ten-Day Dawn period.

Another Monafeqin terrorist cell was also raided in Tabriz and the security forces arrested its members, who were involved in a number of assassinations there, he added.

He provided no more details.

On the recent raid against the pro-Tudeh Feda'iyan-e Khalq members, Reyshahri said before the raid the group's members had disguised themselves as members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards and had engaged in vandalism and threatening people, using false documents.

"They were aiming at disreputing popular and revolutionary institutions," he said.

He added that the group also collaborated with the Monafeqin, the Tudeh Party and the Kurdish Democratic Party as well as others, and had tried to revive the reputation of the Tudeh Party policies which suffered a heavy blow after many of its leaders admitted to spying for the Soviet Union. Since its establishment less than a year ago, the Information Ministry had discovered six bombs and arrested those in this connection, he said. He said the accomplishments of the ministry had been more than expected.

Said he: "If there was a strong intelligence network in our country after the victory of the revolution, many of the plots would not have happened," such as the June 28, 1981 bombing of the Islamic Republic Party headquarters in Tehran, which martyred 74 leading officials and ministers.